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The Hongkong Telegraph

WEATHER FORECAST
OVERCAST.
Barometer 29.81.

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

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March 22, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 54 2 p.m. 62
Humidity " 95 " 94

March 22, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 53 2 p.m. 62
Humidity " 81 " 85

7898 日十初月二

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

伍拜禮 號二十月三英港香

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE SUBMARINE PERIL.

Enemy's Claims Refuted.

London, March 20.

In the House of Commons, Sir Eric Geddes stated that during the twelve months ending January 31, six million tons of shipping were sunk. The enemy claimed to have sunk nine and a half million tons during that period.

Sir Eric Geddes' Figures.

London, March 20.

Sir Eric Geddes, in the course of an important statement in the House of Commons, said that the world's ocean-going tonnage at the beginning of the war, excluding enemy tonnage, amounted to thirty-three million tons. Until December 31 of last year this was reduced by a net figure of two and a half millions, equal to eight per cent. of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The percentage of the net loss of British tonnage alone was twenty. Allied and neutral percentages were more favourable, owing to the inclusion of interned enemy ships by the United States. The reason for the greater loss of British tonnage was mainly due to submarineism, especially directed against Britain, with the object of starving us. The output of new British tonnage during 1915 and 1916 was very low, and before intense submarineism began we were over 1,300,000 tons to the bad.

After emphasizing that our navigation risks were greater than the Allies, Sir Eric Geddes referred to shipbuilding and said that when the Shipping Controller was appointed work had ceased on over fifty large merchantmen in various stages of construction, owing to the lack of material and labour. At present forty-seven large shipyards, containing 209 berths, were wholly engaged in the construction of ocean-going merchantmen. We had also enormously increased the output of repaired tonnage. He proceeded to deal with exaggerated enemy claims as regards sinkings. For example, for the year ending January 31 the enemy claimed to have sunk nine and a half million tons of Entente and neutral shipping. The true figure was six million tons. Our average loss during the last quarter of last year was 281,000 tons a month, against which 140,000 was built monthly. For the same quarter, the Allies and neutrals together were replacing seventy five per cent. of their lost tonnage. Sir Eric declared that it was well within the capacity of the Allied yards, and even British yards, before very long, with a proper supply of material and man-power, to replace entirely the world's losses on the present figures—(Cheers). The stocks of materials in the yards at present were more satisfactory than they had been for years. The need at present was skilled labour, but they were gradually getting skilled men from the Army. Eighteen hundred skilled and unskilled men had returned to the yards to March 18, and 735 others were demobilizing. Regarding the low output in January and February, the conditions were, he believed, gradually being overcome. He believed that the problem was on a fair way to solution. Sir Eric confirmed the appointment of Lord Pirrie as Controller General of Merchant Shipping under the First Lord. Lord Pirrie would not be a member of the Board of the Admiralty, but would have direct access to the Premier and the War Cabinet on questions affecting shipping.

Mr. Lloyd George said that there were 135 extensions of shipyards projected, of which 110 were in hand. He emphasized that Lord Pirrie would be absolutely independent, subject only to the First Lord. The latter would be in the position to control both naval and mercantile controllers, with the War Cabinet as a final appeal. Complete co-operation between Lord Pirrie and Sir Joseph Maule was essential in order to achieve the desired aims. There was no shortage of steel supplies, and there was more than was required both for naval and mercantile vessels.

Proceeding, Mr. Lloyd George described the difficulties of withdrawing skilled shipbuilders from the Army, for they were men whose skill was often essential to their batteries. He was not risking the efficiency of the Army in the field at a very critical moment by so doing. The Government believed that by special exertion the deficiency of 120,000 tons of British shipping could be made good, if they put their strength into the task. The Navy's work had been gratifying. There had been a gradual diminution of losses by submarines, and, if it continued and if shipyards increased their output at the rate of 120,000 tons a month as regards British shipping, or 100,000 tons a month as regards the world's shipping, that deficiency could be wiped out. Such an achievement would do more to shorten the war than any individual effort of which Britain was capable, because it would not merely inflict defeat on the enemy but bring home the fact that he would never defeat us.

Mr. Asquith said that in 1918 the mercantile construction figures and the due requirements of the Navy were mentioned to Sir John Jellicoe, who was removed at his own request from the Grand Fleet to the Admiralty specially to deal with the growing submarine menace.

Some Complaints.

London, March 21.

In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson, who followed Sir Eric Geddes, deprecated the constant changes in the methods of shipbuilding, and said this multiplication of Controllers was disquieting. He would like more information as to the exact functions of Lord Pirrie. The best plan would have been to make Lord Pirrie Controller responsible for both naval and mercantile shipbuilding. Lord Pirrie was a masterful man and would fight for the mercantile marine; yet the longer the war lasted, the more rapidly would the fleet wear out. Sir Edward hoped there would be no friction between Lord Pirrie and the naval constructors.

Mr. Wilkie (Labourite) feared that Sir Eric Geddes' statement would cause greater friction in the yards.

Sir Owen Phillips suggested that it would facilitate shipbuilding if details of every ship launched were published.

Sir Eric Geddes, replying, promised fullest details regarding every yard and every ship.

The German Exaggerations.

London, March 21.

An Admiralty diagram shows the exaggerations in the German claims of the sinking of mercantile tonnage. The exaggeration was only 46 per cent. in February, 1917, but was 113 per cent. in January, 1918. The average exaggeration for the year was 56 per cent.

Latest British Returns.

London, March 20.

The Admiralty announces that the shipping arrivals for the past week have been 2,093 and the sailings 2,317. Eleven ships over and six under 1,000 tons were sunk. Eleven were unsuccessfully attacked and two fishing vessels were sunk.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE SUBMARINE PERIL.

The French Figures.

London, March 20.

The French shipping arrivals for the week were 948 and the sailings 920. The sinkings were two over and two under 1,000 tons.

Italian Returns.

London, March 20.

The Italian shipping arrivals for the week ending March 16 were 467 and the sailings 422. The sinkings were one over and one under 1,000 tons, and two sailing ships, one being over and the other under 100 tons.

THE DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

Not a Breach of Neutrality.

London, March 21.

Reuter's correspondent at the Hague says that in the Second Chamber, Jonkheer London, the Foreign Minister, stated that the placing of ships at the disposal of the Allies was not a breach of neutrality. The Government at first intended to refuse the use of Holland's shipping, but it reconsidered the matter in view of the interests of her industries, shipping and Colonies involved. He said the intention of the associated Powers appeared to be to requisition the whole of Holland's shipping outside Dutch ports, namely a million tons.

A long debate followed, in which a number of members protested against the proposed agreement and criticised the attitude of the Government.

Jonkheer Troelstra, the leader of the Social Democrats, said he hesitated to declare that the Government was departing from neutrality, and he reserved his decision until after the Government's reply. He urged Holland to endeavour to obtain wheat from Ukraine.

Jonkheer London replies to-morrow.

AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

Still Regarded as Allies.

London, March 21.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Moscow, the American Ambassador, asked whether, in view of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, the American Consulate would leave Russia, replied:—"I shall not leave Russia until forced. The American Government and people are too deeply interested in the prosperity of the Russian people to abandon Russia to the Germans. They will do their utmost to safeguard the real interests of the country. If the brave, patriotic Russian people will for the time abandon political disagreements and act resolutely and vigorously, they will be able to expel the enemy and guarantee a lasting peace for itself and the whole world by the end of 1918. My Government still counts America as an ally of the Russian people, and we are ready to help any Government which will sincerely organise a serious resistance against German invasion."

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Still Fighting on French Front.

London, March 21.

A French communique says:—"There is artillery activity between Meuse and the Aisne and also in Champagne. Artillery firing is somewhat violent on the right of the Meuse and at Parroy Wood. In the Woivre region of Bois Brade, the enemy heavily attacked but after a stiff fight we ejected parties which had gained a footing in some of our advanced elements. The enemy attack at Sonain, mentioned this morning, was carried out by two battalions of *stoeßtruppen*, who suffered heavy casualties and were completely defeated. Our aeroplanes dropped thirteen tons of bombs behind the enemy lines. A number of explosions and two fires were observed. Raiders Repulsed."

London, March 20.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—"We repulsed raiders to the south of Passchendaele and north of Poelcapelle, taking prisoners. Hostile artillery is active at La Bassée Canal, Bois Grenier and Passchendaele."

A REICHSTAG DEBATE.

Explaining Away a Memorandum.

London, March 21.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a message from Berlin says that the Lichnowsky Memorandum (in which Prince Lichnowsky while Ambassador to London revealed Britain's pacific intentions) was discussed by the Main Committee of the Reichstag on the 16th instant.

The Vice Chancellor, Herr von Payer, said Prince Lichnowsky, in the course of a statement to Count Hartling on the 15th instant, stated that the Memorandum was intended only for family archives. He showed it, on the assurance of absolute secrecy, to a few political friends. He deeply regretted the vexatious indiscretion whereby it was more widely circulated. Herr von Payer added that Prince Lichnowsky had resigned his Ambassadorial rank and as he was obviously only guilty of imprudence no further steps would be taken against him. Herr von Payer proceeded to contradict some of Prince Lichnowsky's assertions, declaring that the key to Prince Lichnowsky's mistakes and false conclusions regarding the events before the war was probably his over-estimate of his own services, and his hatred of those who did not recognise his achievements as he expected. Herr von Payer declared that the entire Memorandum was permeated by a striking veneration for foreign diplomats, especially British, whom Prince Lichnowsky described in a truly affectionate manner, and by an equally striking irritation against almost all German statesmen. The result was that Prince Lichnowsky frequently regarded Germany's most ardent enemies as her best friends, because they were personally on good terms with him. The aim of the Memorandum was obvious—namely, to show how much better and more enlightened Prince Lichnowsky's policy was and how he could have assured the peace of the Empire if his policy had been followed.

THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN.

London, March 20.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson stated that it was not intended to issue at present a special Imperial medal or ribbon for the operations at Gallipoli.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

CROWN COLONIES' WAR EFFORTS.

London, March 19.

The War Cabinet's report for 1917 says that the smaller colonies and protectorates have contributed their full share to the military effort of the Empire. The labour corps from the eastern colonies has been sent to Mesopotamia and East Africa, and, despite the unfavourable conditions, to the western theatre. A large number of individuals from overseas possessions such as the Malay States and Hongkong have also joined the Imperial forces.

TROUBLE IN INDIA.

London, March 20.

The Press Bureau states that the attitude of the Maris in Baluchistan is unsatisfactory. They have committed numerous outrages against telegraphs, trains and Government property, and have attacked outposts at Gumbaz and Fort Munro. They were repulsed with heavy casualties but are still defiant. Punitive measures are now ordered.

A SEAPLANE FIGHT.

London, March 20.

The Admiralty announces: A British seaplane patrol in Heligoland Bight engaged two seaplanes, ten miles north-eastward of Borkum on Tuesday. They drove down one in flames. All returned.

ENEMY ATTACKS IN THE WEST.

London, March 20.

A French communique states: There is fairly great enemy artillery in Champagne, on the right of the Meuse and in Woivre. After lively bombardments the enemy at several points on the front engaged in infantry actions, which, however, were abortive. An enemy coup-de-main north-east of Rheims was arrested without difficulty. The enemy three attempted to reach our lines in the Souain sector, but violent fire compelled him to withdraw with serious losses. A strong enemy attack south of Arracourt in Lorraine resulted in violent hand-to-hand fighting. We partly gained the advantage and repelled the enemy, taking some prisoners.

FIXING THE PRICE OF SILVER.

London, March 19.

Silver is firm, with limited supplies. The "Times" Washington correspondent states that a Bill is being introduced in Congress Authorising the Government to melt down and sell 500,000,000 silver dollars out of the 400,000,000 now in the Treasury vaults. It is understood this will be virtually equivalent to the Government's fixing the price of silver at about a dollar an ounce. Silver producers and dealers have agreed informally to sell the country's entire output for the next year or two at a fixed price, probably ninety-eight cents or a dollar an ounce, to replace the silver dollars melted down for export to India, China and Japan.

EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE.

Allegations Against a Government Servant.

The charge of embezzlement against Albert J. Edwards, accountant and storekeeper of the Government Civil Hospital, was proceeded with before Mr. J. E. Wood, at the Police Court this morning. Defendant is charged with embezzling \$500.

Mr. L. Longino, the Assistant Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute.

When the case came on for defence asked if he could make a request, but his Worship advised him to hear the evidence first.

Dr. Johnson, the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, said that defendant had held the appointment since May last. On February 7, witness received from the Government a cheque for \$500 to make advances to the Chinese staff of the hospital for the New Year. This he endorsed and handed to defendant. Later witness drew the usual cheque for wages and handed it to defendant. It was defendant's duty to cash the cheque and pay the staff. There were no definite instructions as to how the \$500 advanced to the staff was to be recovered, whether it was to be deducted from wages or recovered later. It was defendant's duty to recover it and pay the money back to the Treasury. On March 4, defendant was granted a day's leave, and the next day had a day's medical leave. On March 6, defendant was absent, and witness had enquiries made. Defendant did not return. Pay sheets were found in defendant's office purporting to be signed by all the persons to whom advances had been made, and also receipts for the full month's salary. Witness reported the defendant's absence to the Colonial Secretary, the O.L.D. and the Audit Department. A search was made, but defendant could not be found. Last night's

message was received from Inspector Davitt, of Kowloon City that defendant was in a Chinese house there. Witness told the Inspector to have the man brought to Hongkong and he also asked Inspector Grant to send for Dr. McKenny, to see the defendant on arrival, for he did not know whether he had suddenly gone ill or insane. Witness saw the defendant the next day when he was in "bed, and he said" "I am sorry to have given you all this trouble." He admitted that he had been in money difficulties for some time and that he had used some Government money. He said he must have gone out of his mind for a little time. He knew he had been doing "wrong," but got more and more involved. He had been to see his priest, and was advised to tell all about his wrong-doing, but he was afraid to do so. He next found himself at Kowloon, and did not know how he had got there. He was so tired that he went into a Chinese house. Later the safe was opened by Dr. McKenny, when it was found that \$399.73 was there. This sum had no connection with the embezzled amount. In a later interview the defendant admitted having the money. He was extremely penitent, and he said he hoped he would be given an opportunity of retrieving his position. Witness replied that he was afraid there was no alternative but for him to be charged. He replied "As I have made my own bed I must lie on it. But I have spoiled 15 years of good service." As regards one Indian money-lender I have paid him 14 times over, but this man has nearly driven me out of my senses by persecution." He reiterated that he was guilty of the deficit. Witness specifically mentioned the \$500, and Dr. McKenny was then present. When asked how he expected to repay the money, defendant only admitted that he had been foolish. Defendant was placed under

CONTROL OF PRICES.

Doom of the Profiteer at Bombay.

Bombay, 18th February.

The Bombay Government have issued a Press Note, indicating the arrangements made for the regulation of prices. The Controller of Prices will be assisted by committees and assistant collectors. The duties of one assistant collector will be to ascertain the stocks prevailing at Parol and the probable arrival and departure of goods. One will maintain statistics and another will look after foodstuff supplies. Ward committees have been constituted, who will be in immediate touch with the people and receive their complaints. They will establish grain shops and sell household necessities and common varieties of cloth. They will also report to the Controller any infringements of the notifications fixing the standard rate of rent for tenements with a rental of less than Rs. 10. As regards rentals exceeding that figure, ward committees will, pending legislation on the subject, receive and report instances of excessive increases of rents. Mill-owners have undertaken to open shops for the sale of food grain to their employees. Also they will sell cloth at wholesale prices. They have also promised to consider the possibility of redeeming employees' debts on a reasonable guarantee of repayment. The Development Committee will be concerned with making recommendations for the housing of employees of Government and public bodies, and with proposals for the erection of semi-permanent bums for the accommodation of the poorer classes. They will also make proposals for bringing to the attention of the Corporation the necessity for pushing on the construction of roads in areas which it is thought desirable to open up. The committee will also consider the possibility of recommending to Government the grant of loans for building purposes to building and co-operative societies. A prize of Rs. 500 will be offered for the most suitable design of a semi-permanent building suitable for habitation. Steps are being taken to examine stocks and to ascertain the minimum requirements of the city for each article in order that, if possible, the difficulties of railway supply may be met. It is not proposed to fix the price of articles unless it proves absolutely necessary to do so, but if possible a system will be introduced whereby dealers who are willing to sell at State prices will be assisted in obtaining waggons. This system has already been successfully introduced as regards coal supplies. The question of the price of cloth is receiving separate consideration.

arrest on March 8, and removed from the Hospital. He was the accountant of the Medical Department, and was subordinate to the Superintendent of the Civil Hospital. Defendant had often to be told that he was forgetful and unsatisfactory. That was during the last month or so. When defendant left, his work was not unusually behind.

Inspector Grant stated that when arrested the defendant was very distressed. All he had had that day was a cup of tea. The defendant had nothing to say.

Ng Lok, first clerk at the Hospital, said that early in February he received an advance of \$80 from the defendant. At the end of the month he received a cheque for \$138.66 and on the same day refunded \$50 in cash on account of the Government. He had no receipt.

A ward boy spoke to receiving an advance of \$50 and on February 28 he received his pay less an amount deducted for the Chinese cook. He actually received \$10.20. He repaid the \$50. The case was adjourned until a clock on Tuesday morning.

SHIPPING NEWS.

New Steamer.
On March 1, at the Chitose Dockyard, Osaka, a steel steamer of 2,600 tons, built to the order of the Shinko Kisen Kaisha, of Kobe, was successfully launched. The steamer was named the Shinko Maru.

Panama Canal.
On December 1, 1917, the record for time required to pass through the Panama Canal was lowered from the previous record of 5 hours and 45 minutes to 4 hours and 13 minutes by a ship making the transit north bound. On the following day a vessel going south made the passage in 4 hours and 10 minutes.

Demand for Steel Shapes.
It is reported that some shipbuilders of Japan are trying to secure steel shapes from the United States by selling some ships to America already in actual service in exchange for shapes, a plan more likely to be accepted by that country than that now proposed by Japan to the American Shipping Board.

Officers Wanted.
The Employment Bureau of the Mercantile Marine Service Association reports that during the first week of December there was a moderate inquiry for officers mainly for juniors. A number of senior officers are open for engagement. An inquiry for masters to act as surveyors under the food control for ships has resulted in a large number of applications being made for these posts. It is understood that appointments of a similar nature have been already made in various ports in the United Kingdom.

China Coast Gazette.
Mr. W. Foster, acting master, Loongsang, has gone chief officer, same ship. Captain W. G. G. Lisk, from leave, has gone master, Loongsang. Mr. T. G. Davis, acting chief officer, Loongsang, has gone second officer, same ship. Mr. W. Lukin, second officer, Loongsang, has gone second officer, Tangshing. Mr. W. L. Johnson, supernumerary, Kweichow, has been appointed chief officer, Amherst. Mr. E. T. Evans, second officer, Fatahan, has gone second officer, Kweichow. Mr. F. O. Parkinson, chief officer, Saitai, is on leave. Mr. W. J. Collom has been appointed chief officer, Saitai.

Trouble on Russian Ships.
During the last few days, says the Japan Chronicle, there have been some alarming rumours regarding the five R.V.F. steamers now in the harbour of Kobe. It is said that on one of them, the Silks, while en route to Japan eighty members of the crew who had Bolshevik sympathies tried to get the captain removed from his position in favour of the first officer. On arrival in Kobe, Captain Bedel, through the Russian Vice-Consul in the port, asked Viscount Motono, the Foreign Minister, to take steps not to allow the departure of the ship, since it was feared that 1,800 tons of iron and other goods shipped at Seattle would fall into the hands of the Bolsheviks. On the other hand, the Bolshevik members of the crew of the Silks, it is reported, urged the Russian Vice-Consul to give a clearance permit, but this was refused.

Co-ordination of Shipping Interests.
The Manager of the Swansea Chamber of Commerce urges the closest connection with commercial industries in all branches. Our commercial supremacy was threatened to-day, and it would require every ounce of brain and force for us to maintain our position. He urged a closer co-ordination of shipping interests. Blue Book rates were entirely unremunerative to the majority of tramp shipowners, and Mr. Raeburn, president of the Chamber, had written stating that they would have to ask for a rise of Blue Book rates in nearly every class of ship. Statistics showed it cost a British ship \$2,000 a year more to run, even before the war, than a Norwegian ship. As regards the future of shipping the Government could never hope to run ships cheaper than private owners. Tramp shipowning was not a matter which could be taken over by the Government, and it was in the interests of the Government that they should return the ships to their owners at the earliest available opportunity.

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FOR SALE.—TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 135 Peak apply DUNCAN CLARK, c/o Lane, Crawford & Co.

FOR SALE.—PIANOFORTE. Upright Iron grand in good order, very little used, owner leaving the Colony; and must be sold at once. Cost \$450; will take \$225. Can be seen at the Hongkong Parcel Express, 3, Duddell Street.

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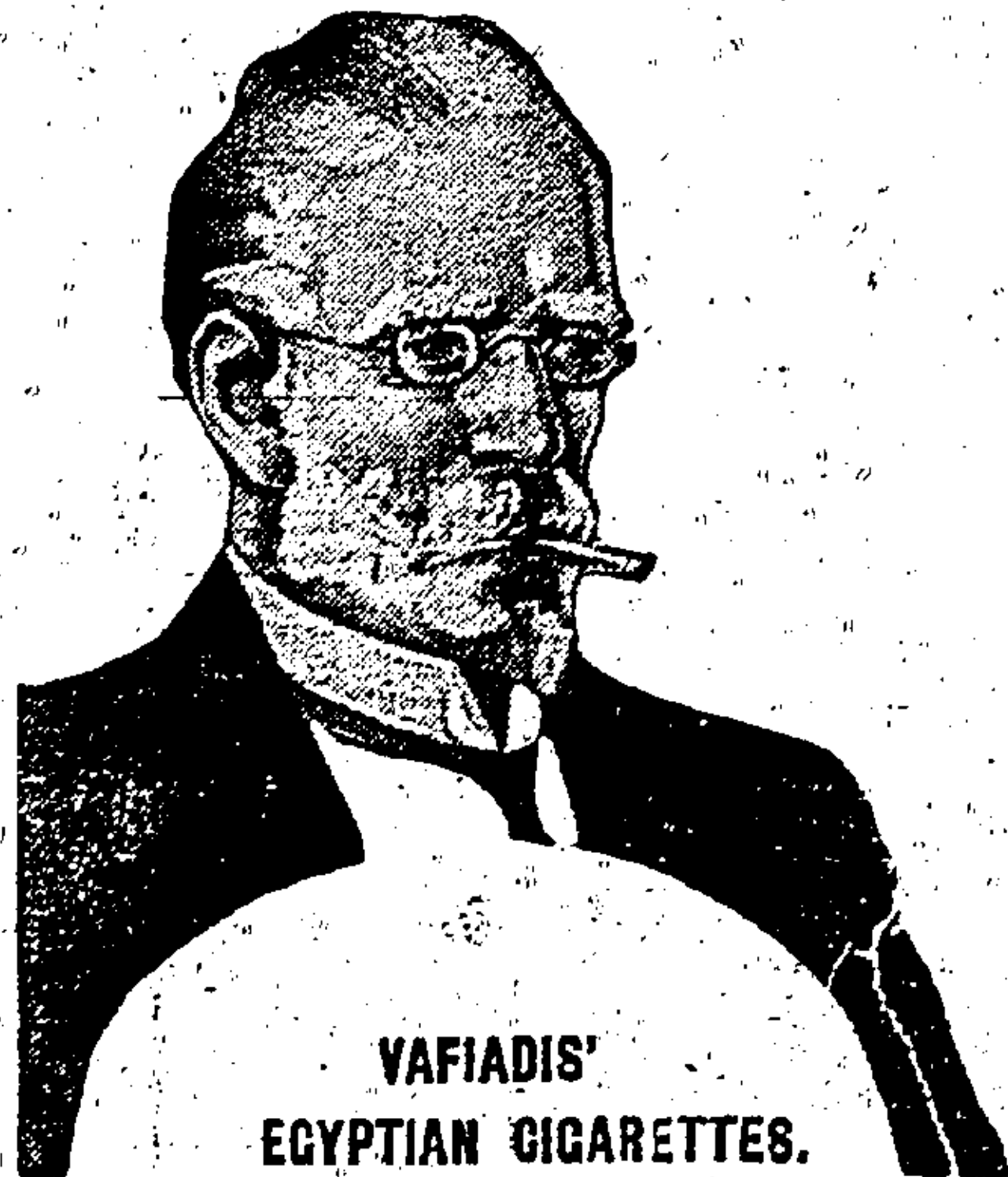
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Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

THE HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

PURCHASERS OF PARIMUTUEL TICKETS on the fifth Race, Second Day, for Cash Sweeps. Places and winners, also Cash Sweep ticket holders of following Races can obtain a refund on production of their ticket at the Office of the Hongkong Jockey Club, on the Ground Floor of the HONGKONG CLUB ANNEXE, Chater Road, between the hours of 3.30 P.M. and 5.30 P.M. on MONDAY, 4th March, 1918, until 29th March (SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS excepted).

HOLDERS OF UNPAID WINNING TICKETS (Cash Sweeps, Places and Winners) will also be paid at the same place and between the same hours as stated above on production of tickets.

LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,

Accountants to the Hongkong Jockey Club.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1918.

NOTICE.

WE have been appointed by Messrs. Jenson & Nicholson Limited of London to be their Sole Agents in Hongkong, South China, and the Philippine Islands, for the sale of their Varnishes, Enamels, Paints, Colours and all kindred lines manufactured by them.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held in the Office of the Company, 2, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on MONDAY 25th March, 1918, at 12th noon, for consideration of the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

THE SHARE REGISTER and TRANSFER BOOKS will be closed from the 16th to the 25th inst., both days inclusive. By Order of the Board of Directors.

R. M. DYER, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1918.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

HONGKONG'S POST-WAR PROBLEMS.

There seems to be a tendency to dissociate the now almost daily references to post-war problems from a local application. One finds that as soon as the phrase is given utterance, people's minds automatically dwell on the problems with which the world's diplomats and the statesmen at home will be concerned when the military strife is ended. There are no two opinions that the dawn of peace will serve as a wonderful starting point for improvements of every kind. The hitherto almost Utopian conception of a League of Nations seems to be nearing practical expression, whilst the Old Country is promising itself a just tackling of the great problem of Labour. The better housing of the working classes is being thought out in preparation for accomplishment; welfare workers are aiming at better social privileges and conditions for the working masses; an improved scheme of elementary education is being urged; and, generally speaking, the travail of war has given an impetus to the desire to elevate the living conditions of all sections of the community. One sees the same process going on in practically every country that has maintained its national entity—in fact, it is the bright thing in what would otherwise be an exceedingly dark page of the world's history. The welter of human destruction demands a grand set-off of high resolve and achievement, for, failing that, the Great War will have served no great permanent purpose. Who can say that Hongkong can reasonably stand aloof and see others aiming at advancement, doing nothing itself to interpret what will possibly be a rejuvenated spirit of progress? The times are characterized by introspection, and those whose duty it is to legislate for the public weal in this Colony would do well to look around and note the many opportunities that exist for progressive action.

Since democracy is surely and inevitably coming into its own, one of the prime necessities here is popular control of the governing powers, and residents will have to insist with all the force of collective action on an early cessation of official autocracy. The very essence of the present struggle is a fight for the survival of democracy and Hongkong must not be left outside the application of the principle. As a matter of fact, it is the Crown Colony system of governance generally that has to be destroyed, and such destruction will only be accomplished by strong expressions from each and all of the Crown Colonies of the Empire. United action should be aimed at, for the authorities at home are too safely ensconced in their present positions to permit of isolated protests being effective. Little less important is the vexed question of housing, for it is one that concerns the entire community. Not only are more houses required, but less exorbitant rents will have to be a feature of future conditions. For most Europeans the housing problem is a veritable nightmare of worry, and it is a standing disgrace to the flourishing Port that the provision of housing should be in the position that it is. There should be an insistence on governmental action, adequate to meet the necessities of the case. Education for British children is another of the problems urgently needing attention, but we have previously said enough on this matter to point the way to improvement. The protection of residents against profiteers, both Chinese and foreign, deserves thought and action, and there is no little scope for wise administration in a hundred and one other directions. A study of the general living conditions of Hongkong's half a million inhabitants is a by no means inspiring one, and it takes but a little intelligence to discern endless ways in which improvement could be effected. The essential need is the spirit.

Hongkong is a long way from the seat of war, it is even little affected by the world-wide dislocation that has been occasioned, and there is a danger of its being left undisturbed in its oriental placidity. The Colony has suffered too much already from contagion to be able to forego a share in the war's greatest achievement, i.e., the realization that the process of human uplifting deserves to be constant. To dawdle in the rear of what we hope will be an era of accelerated social progress will be to demonstrate that for Hongkong the war was just a war, only an event of great historical interest, and not one of the greatest opportunities that humanity has ever had for demonstrating that out of error can come enlightenment.

The Green Street Trial.

Public opinion will agree in toto with the verdict returned yesterday in the Green Street murder trial, for, with the evidence as presented, the jury had no option but to acquit the prisoner of the charge. The case for the prosecution broke down by reason of discrepancies in the evidence tendered and more particularly because the principal witness for the Crown, the chief Chinese detective, committed certain very material facts in his version of the happenings, given while in hospital some week or so after the terrible affair. In fairness to the officer, however, it should be remembered that he was at this time suffering badly from the wounds he had sustained and was thus scarcely in the frame of mind to give such a coherent statement as he would be able to do, on reflection, under better circumstances. His honesty of purpose throughout cannot be questioned; the unfortunate part was that his story was uncorroborated and that it was at variance with the evidence of another member of the Force. However, there can be no regret either that the case came on for trial or that the prisoner was acquitted. Everyone must admire the scrupulous fairness of the Attorney General in conducting the case and his extreme anxiety that the prisoner should be given every possible chance. More than that, the verdict, in the circumstances, did the utmost credit to the level-headedness of the jury, who, by resisting the temptation to let their feelings get the better of them, worthily upheld the British tradition for justice and fair play.

The Shipping Outlook.

While the facts and figures revealed in the House of Commons by Sir Eric Geddes show that the U-boats are taking a heavy toll of the world's shipping, we think the general feeling, after an analysis of his speech, will be one of satisfaction that the situation is not worse and that Allied shipbuilders have it in their power to bring about an early improvement. That view is justified by the statement that the bad conditions which existed in the first two months of the present year are being overcome, and that there is no shortage of steel supplies, while we have it on the word of Sir Eric Geddes that it is well within the capacity of the Allied, and even the British, yards before long to replace entirely the world's shipping losses. This, of course, is dependent on the exertion of our maximum effort. We have, however, still a good deal of progress to make, as is evident from the fact that our losses for the last quarter of 1917 were some 120,000 tons per month more than our output of new ships, while the other Allies and neutral nations have yet 25 per cent. of their losses to make good. Still, the assurances given both by Sir Eric Geddes and Mr. Lloyd George are, we may be sure, the result of a close investigation of possibilities.

A Regrettable Omission.

There is one interesting fact confirmed in the statements with regard to the German exaggerations of what their submarines have been able to accomplish. The enemy lays claim to have sent nine and a half million tons of shipping to the bottom of the sea during twelve months, whereas the correct figure is only six millions. This habit of "pulling the long bow" seems to be growing on the Hun, as his exaggerations have steadily been on the upward grade, until for the first month of this year they are just a mere 13 per cent. wide of the truth. There is one thing that we must learn from the figures given, and that is a statement concerning the actual destruction of enemy submarines. If we are not afraid to tell the Germans the facts in regard to sunken tonnage, why should we hesitate to disclose the success of our anti-submarine measures? At any rate the figures might have been given up to the end of last year. If they had been, we feel sure that the public would be greatly encouraged by the statistics. Why fill in the details of the unpleasant side of the U-boat campaign and omit to offset them by facts which would show that the enemy is not having matters all his own way?

DAY BY DAY.

DOING IS AS DEVOUT AS PRAYING. RELIGION CONSISTS NOT IN PRAYING A PRAYER BUT IN BEING A PRAYER.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the 57th birthday of Cardinal Bourne.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 1½d.

Anniversary Dinner.
A dinner is being held at the Hongkong Hotel on April 12 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the incorporation of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

Spotted Fever.
For the 24 hours ended yesterday sixteen cases of spotted fever were notified—all but six in the City of Victoria. All the sufferers were Chinese and there were twelve deaths.

A Murder Case.
At the Magistrate's court this morning formal evidence was given in the murder case in which two sugar sisters are charged with the murder of another sister at Ewo Street, Wanchai. The case was again adjourned.

Raffle Result.
The embroidered table cloth presented by Mrs. G. Barker and raffled for the benefit of our Little Bit Society's Wool Fund resulted in \$109 being realised. The winning number, 108, was drawn by Mrs. Hon T. Ng.

War Loan Investments.
Up to the end of February subscriptions to the War Loans Investment Trust of Malaya totalled \$8,012,070, contributed by 2,933 subscribers. Under the heading of "Others" it is shown that 245 subscribers contributed \$1,053,030.

League Cricket.
Kowloon play Craigengower on Saturday at Happy Valley, commencing at 2 p.m. The Kowloon team will be—J. P. Robinson (Capt.), J. Stalker, P. H. Copp, A. A. Claxton, K. Macaskill, L. J. Blackburn, L. E. S. Hodge, O. I. Stapleton, F. E. Joseland, W. T. Elson and R. Pestonji.

Theft of Whisky.
A cask was charged before Mr. A. Dyer Ball, this morning, with having stolen a bottle of whisky from a steamer lying near Kowloon Wharf. Inspector Gordon said that defendant was arrested when searched before passing the gate. The bottle was found concealed on his person. He stated that several larcenies had taken place recently. Defendant admitted having taken the whisky. He was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

War Comforts.
Our Little Bit Society has today sent to Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Co. two cases war comforts, as below, to be forwarded to the Matron, Q.A.I.M.N.S., 26 Stationary Hospital, Ismailieh, Egypt:—1,200 roller bandages, 28 prs. stretcher boots, 94 prs. cloth slippers, 25 mufflers, 68 flannel vests, 134 milk covers, 130 suits pyjamas, 27 prs. socks, 60 prs. mittens, 10 mops, 23 sleeveless sweaters, 35 prs. white woollen bed socks, 55 white woollen caps, 12 brown woollen caps, 12 bags swabs, 6 floor cloths.

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to day by Mr. F. C. Jenkin, O.B.E., are:—

Emergency.
Fifty truncheons have been set aside at Headquarters Office for use by members called out on emergency when in plain clothes.

Truncheons.
All ranks below the rank of Inspector, will carry truncheons whenever in uniform.

Service Rifles.
Members of No. 1 Company are ordered to return their Service Rifles to Armoury at Central on either Monday, March 25th or Tuesday, March 26th, between the hours of 5.15 p.m. and 8.0 p.m. Fall-throughs and Oil bottles need not be returned.

Search Supervisors.
All members of No. 1 Section, and all men warned for duty as Search Supervisors from No. 1 Platoon and No. 3 Company, etc., and all members recently attached from H. K. Defence Corps, will attend in uniform at Headquarters Club on Thursday, March 28 at 5.30 p.m. sharp.

WAITING FOR THE CHALLENGE.

Faith of Our Fighting Men.

Mr. Philip Gibbs wrote on January 12:—It is six weeks since the German counter-attacks at Cambrai, two months since our capture of Passchendaele, and the lines have been quiet since then under the heavy snow, except for bursts of gunfire and night raids, and that time assault last week. Our men have been glad of this respite from fighting, and the resting battalions have enjoyed their spell of peace as men to whom dry clothes, a sound roof, a fire on the hearthside, and silence unbroken by the crash of shells are great gifts, splendid in their bodies and in their souls. Even in the line the tumult of the fighting months has died down into quiet days and nights, with only moments of savage shelling, as a reminder that the devil is not yet dead, so that our men up there have not too bad a time.

Some of them I know—those Gordons of whom I have given glimpses up and down the roads of war—had quite a good time on Hogmanay Night within 400 yards of the enemy. In some cases quivered deep below the trenches and lighted with electric lamps—there was a horrid moment when the engine stopped working and threatened to plunge them all in darkness—they had a feast—night, and the spirit of Scotland moved among them and lived in their songs and speeches with the memory of gallant comrades who had been with them a year ago, and are no longer with them. The pipers came up into the caves, and their music filled these rocky vaults with wild sound, very haunting in its call to Scottish hearts, but it was imprisoned below ground, and did not reach the German lines. The little dim light glowed on the steel helmets of the Gordons, and made fantastic shadows on the walls, as the pipers, marched up and down, and shone in the eyes of the officers and men as they sipped hot rum punch, and felt its warmth in their hearts. The comely nose of Honest John, with his "no-trump face," as the Colonel called it, glowed with rum and love for his fellow creatures.

Four officers who had fought through the Somme together—also there are only four now of those who held the lines at Martinpuich—raised their glasses to each other and toasted the colonel who thinks of them from afar waiting for a wound to heal in his lung, and yearning to come out again, because, though he hates war, he loves his battalion. He is the Georgian gentleman who has appeared as an heroic figure in some of my sketches, and one day he will reappear, and the pipers will play him back with the march tune of his own clan.

Up in the lice there was a pint of hot cocoa every night dispensed from a Y.M.C.A. dugout by a great-hearted soul, who once wrote books and plays which all the world knows and now finds happiness for a wounded heart in serving our soldiers in the danger zone. He had to borrow a steel hat and a gas bag to go up to a place which he says smells strongly of hell, but no need to borrow a soldier's courage. Yesterday I met the Gordons in their billets and took tea in their mess with a score or so officers at a long table in an old house which stands undamaged in a ruined town. It was a good picture, not without the romance of history in it. If I were a painter instead of a journeyman of words I should love to get the colour of it down on canvas with the faces of those Scots in the candle light and the firelight. In that old brown paneled room, with its broken bits of gilding and its high-backed chairs. The officers of the Scots' Arders, who were the bodyguard of Louis XI, might have sat in such a room as this in this very town, and I think the faces of those medieval soldiers would

KOWLOON BOWLING GREEN CLUB.

The Annual Meeting Last Evening.

Mr. W. Davison presided at the annual meeting of the above Club last evening, when a good attendance of members gathered at the Clubhouse.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman said the Club had never been in such a sound financial position. There had been an increase of 12 in membership, which now stood at 142. He expressed thanks to Messrs. Owen and Oswald for presenting a prize for the rink competition. The Club had been very successful in competition, being second in the League and he hoped they would be more so next season.

They had lost one of their best members in Mr. Henderson who was practically one of the founders and up to the time of his sickness was a regular attendant at the Club. The Committee took upon themselves to send a small token to be placed on the grave from the Club, he was sure they were all in deep sympathy with Mrs. Henderson in her sad bereavement. Capt. Milroy seconded, and the report and accounts were approved.

Mr. Davison retired as President, and on a ballot Mr. J. B. Chapman was elected, Mr. W. J. Owens being unanimously chosen Vice-President.

Mr. D. S. Cooper and Mr. J. Morris were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively, and the following Committee was chosen:—Messrs. D. Gow, W. Russell, D. Neilson, D. Harvey, J. S. Mackintosh, O. Atkinson, A. M. Simpson, V. O. Labrum.

A suggestion that two teams should be entered in the League was left to the Committee.

Promises for cups in various competitions were made as follows:—Bowls: Messrs. W. Russell, D. Gow, W. Davison, O. Atkinson, R. M. Dyer, D. Harvey, G. R. Edwards, Golf:—A. Milroy, D. Neilson, Tennis:—J. Ross and R. Hall.

Mr. D. Gow expressed thanks on behalf of Mrs. Henderson for the Club's sympathy, and the meeting closed with the customary votes of thanks.

would have been like those I saw round the table yesterday—clean-cut, brown, and hard.

"What do you think of the prospects?" I ask Honest John, who has great wisdom in his hard pate. "We're waiting for the Boche to show his hand," he said, "and we're ready for him. It seems likely that he will try to break our lines; but if he could not do it before when he had ten to one, how can he hope to do it now, when it will be man for man and gun for gun? We shall hold him all right."

That is the faith of all our men. They are not afraid of this menace of masses of men and guns which may be brought against us if the enemy's threat is fulfilled. They are sure of their offensive strength, sure of our artillery, of our own courage, and they believe that, however great the enemy's assault it will be smothered with great slaughter. So their faith is not shaken, although they know better than all others that when this year's fighting begins it will be ferocious. They are waiting for the enemy's great challenge to the struggle, which may decide the fate of the world. They are waiting now for the arena to be cleared of snow, and for the roads leading up to it to be hardened after the thaw that has now set in. For a few days they looked to the likelihood of some other kind of settlement, by statesmen rather than by soldiers, by ideas rather than by high explosives; but now the enemy seems to want war "ag-in-interest" of peace, and our men are ready to give him all he wants, if it is for slaughter that he seeks. If the enemy presses his challenge on the western front, I believe that there will be greater slaughter than there has ever been in this in this very town, and I think the faces of those medieval soldiers would

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

Warm woollen petticoats are to be sent, in lots of tens of thousands, to the peasant women of France by the manufacturers and jobbers of the United States. This philanthropy is entirely unofficial, and has heretofore been kept a close secret. There is, however, no longer any reason for concealing, from the nation or the world, information concerning so kindly and generous an act. Promoted and managed by business men, in a business way, it has a practical side to it, which none will appreciate more keenly than the peasant heroines of France.

That the people of the United States handle their money somewhat carelessly would seem to be established by the fact that the Comptroller of the Currency, at Washington, last year redeemed and destroyed soiled and mutilated paper currency to the face value of \$484,000,000. There was talk some time ago, by the way, of setting up a money-mending and money-laundering plant in the United States Treasury. In fact, some laundered money was returned to circulation, but it had a faded, washed-out appearance, did not seem quite genuine, and was anything but popular. Just now the Secretary of the Treasury is asking the bank officials to use old money as long as possible before ordering new, so as to save the cost of paper and printing. This would indicate that Mr. Hoover has been slipping some quiet hints on war economies over to Mr. McAdoo.

With the transfer of the steamer North Star to the service of the Old Dominion Line, between New York and Norfolk, a change made necessary by the exigencies of war, communication by boat between Boston, Mass., and St. John, N. B., on the International Line, has been interrupted for the first time in seventy years. Although the suspension of the International Line is indefinite, there is reason for believing that it will be only temporary. There remains rail communication between Boston and St. John, of course, but neither city will be content to forgo connection by water a day longer than is positively necessary. Here is another reason why the Emergency Ship Corporation should hasten things along.

The scientific study of English place-names is of comparatively recent growth, says Mr. G. B. Grundy in an interesting article on the subject in the *Quarterly Review* for October, and the task of the modern scientific investigator in arriving at truth undiluted by misleading fancy has not been lightened by the speculations and guesses of many generations of amateur antiquaries. The writer gives one very entertaining example of the devastating results which sometimes follow from ingenious theories:—It was a favorite theory in the past, a theory very conspicuous in Canon Taylor's work, that later immigrants into this country had frequently attached topographical terms of their own to pre-existing Celtic names. Torpenbow, the name of a village in Cumberland, was what might be called the "supreme instance" of the theory. "Bow" was originally the simple name of the local hill. New settlers of different race came, and, not knowing that "bow" meant "hill," called it "Penbow." "Hill-bow." A third stream of settlers, ignorant as indeed they might well be, of the meaning of "Penbow," called the hill "Torpenbow," "Hill-bill-bill." The theory was very interesting and very fallacious. The whole name is pure Norse. Torfinn bær, "Torfinn's Grave-mound." In the vast majority of cases the place-names of this country go back at earliest to Saxon; at latest to Danish times; and the earliest exact sources are documents of the period before the Norman Conquest. So far, modern investigation has been confined to but a few of the English counties, and therefore does not provide material for final generalization on the distribution of Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Danish, and Norse elements in place-names.

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(Projected Sailings from Hongkong.—Subject to Alteration.)

For	Steamship	On
MANILA	Loongsang	FRI., 22nd Mar. at 3 p.m.
HAIPHONG	Loongsang	SAT., 23rd Mar. at 7 a.m.
TIENSIN	Chipsing	SUN., 24th Mar. at 11 a.m.
MANILA	Yuenang	FRI., 29th Mar. at 3 p.m.

CALCUTTA LINE.—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

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SHANGHAI LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai.

Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.

MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Friday.

HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Swatow when indicated.

BORNEO LINE.—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by a steamer having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kedat, Jesselton, Labuan, Taiwan and Lahad Datus.

TIENSIN LINE.—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin calling at Wobahai and Chiao.

Under Straits Government Passport Regulations.

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COMMERCIAL NEWS.

The World's Advance in Prices. The "Mainichi" learns that since the war started prices of commodities both in belligerent and neutral countries have advanced at the following rates for each of the countries mentioned:—

	Per cent.
Japan	50
United States	90
Britain	100
France	95
Germany	120
Austria-Hungary	110
Russia	200
Italy	90
European Neutrals	60
South American States	50
China	45
Australia	50

It will be seen that by far the heaviest advance is shown in Russia, followed by Germany and Austria-Hungary, while China shows the least advance.

Cotton.

Shanghai, March 16.—Local cotton is getting actually excited, and prices here are about on a parity with American cotton in New York. With more inquiry for yarn, mills must cover their cotton and business is reported at these prices:—Tungchow Tls. 46, Shanghai Tls. 45, Shanai Tls. 44 to Tls. 47, Ningpo Tls. 43, ex godown. Speculator holders foresee even higher rates. Actual stocks here are not large; and while here may still be a considerable quantity in the country, the farmers are in no hurry to bring it in to such a strong market. A slight break, however, would no doubt bring some hidden stocks to light, from fear of a decline. Everyone wants to sell at top level.

Anglo-Dutch Agreement on

Sugar and Rice.

According to the "Asahi" information has been received in Osaka that as the result of an agreement reached between Britain and Holland, the Rotterdam, Lloyd and two other Dutch steamship companies have agreed to offer seven steamers for the export of Japanese sugar to India to the quantity of 9,000 tons a month, in return for which Britain has agreed to permit the export of Rangoon rice to Java to the extent of 4,000 tons a year. The seven steamers are further to engage in the transport of sugar and rice between Java, India, and Rangoon. Britain has also agreed not to censor or seize correspondence relating to rice and sugar. It is further reported that the United States and Holland have reached an agreement on a proposal to open a round service with the Dutch steamers interested in American waters with the object of supplying the United States and Great Britain with Japanese sugar. Lever's Purchase Liverpool Oil Mill.

It is officially announced that Lever Bros. Ltd. of Port Sunlight, have acquired the old-established oil-crushing mill of Earles and King, Ltd. in Burlington-street, Liverpool. The mill will be carried on under its old name and management as one of the numerous associated companies of Lever Brothers. Originally the mill was in Oldhall street, where it had been one of the landmarks of the city for over a century. In 1872 the property was acquired by the London and North-Western Railway Company for the extension of their Waterloo Goods Station, and this meant the pulling down of the mill. New quarters were soon found, and the existing fine mill was erected in Burlington-street by Mr. Arthur Earle, the present senior of the firm, and equipped with the most modern machinery then designed.

Yarn Report.

Shanghai, March 16.—Local yarns continue to gain strength and Szechuan inquiry coming in on Thursday firmed things up considerably, though there has been comparatively little first hand business. Indian yarns here also are slowly moving up, and with Bombay remaining firmly steady the gap between Shanghai and Bombay prices has been reduced to Tls. 5 to Tls. 7. Holders are firm, waiting for the higher prices that actual want must bring out, and advance of Tls. 4 to Tls. 5 is expected immediately if Szechuan is actually buying after some months out of market. Resales of some 3,000 bales local 20's are said to have been purchased by Szechuan merchants at Tls. 168 to Tls. 170, but direct mill business is so far lacking. Tientsin seems still uninclined to buy, and it is said that Tientsin cast-iron bought before Chinese New Year has been turned over here at a profit; those in this transaction will have to reduce their higher rates, working double profits both ways, all good for the market.

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NOTICES

SHARE REPORT.

Meers, Benjamin and Fells, 18, their Share Report dated Friday the 22nd instant, state:—

During the interval since our last report a good volume of business has been put through on the local market and in spite of the approaching March Settlement rates have been well maintained. Exchange has further advanced which has had its effect on the higher priced investment stocks. These, however, have buyers at slightly under quoted rates.

Shanghai Market has again been very active for both Cotton shares and Docks and a good business has been done at advancing rates. The Singapore Market keeps steady at about last week's level.

The following are today's cable quotations:—Malacca \$4.25, Kampas \$7.25, Ayer Panas \$7.75, Kedah \$3.75, Alor Gajah \$3.55, Badellah \$10, Tapa \$13, Chongkat Serdang \$6.30, New Serdang \$3.85, Ayer Moleka \$2.10, Pajans \$12 and Sandycroft \$3.40, all Straits Currency.

Backs.—Sales have again taken place at \$15, but on account of the further advance in Exchange shares are now obtainable at \$10.

Marine and Fire Insurance.—Unions have changed hands again at \$800 and Canteens have been placed at \$320. Yangtze have been sold to the North at Shanghai \$220 Ex. 73. Hongkong Fire are steady at \$330 and China Fire are unchanged at \$133.

Shipping.—Deferred Indos under Settlement influences after sales at \$160 declined during the week to \$154, at which rate, and at \$155, a good business has been done. The market closes steady with buyers offering \$154. Preferred Indos remain unaltered at \$32½ buyers. Dongleese have changed hands at \$77 and are on offer at this rate. Steamboats have again been in demand at \$18 and \$18½ at which rates business has been done. Star Ferries have sellers at \$23.

Refineries.—China Sugars have buyers at \$80 after sales at this and \$81. Malabons are unchanged, buyers offering \$29.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after sales at \$131½ and \$132 have buyers at \$131. Shanghai Docks have had a further sharp rise and after cash sales at \$134, are wanted at \$134. Business has been done for these shares at \$134. June and July and \$102 July and there is a strong demand at the close. Kowloon Wharves have again come to business at \$83 and \$83½ and there are buyers at \$83½.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—We have very little to report under this heading and rates are practically unchanged from last week with the exception of a sale of Hongkong Lands reported at the reduced rate of \$84. Centrals are wanted at \$90 and Hongkong Hotels at \$87½. There are buyers of Humphreys Estates at \$53½ whilst Kowloon Lands at \$27½ and West Points at \$78 are both nominal.

Oils & Mining.—Raube after sales at \$3, have sellers at this rate. Langkats have been done at \$14½ and \$14½. Kailans are wanted at \$14½. Ural Caspian are nominal at 20½ and Shells remain at 120½ buyers, which is the London rate.

Electric Companies.—Hongkong Electric has buyers at \$48½, but no shares are coming out. China Lights have been done at \$44 and have buyers now at \$44½. Low Level Trams have changed hands at \$6.20 and there are more shares offering at this rate.

Cotton Mills.—There has been a good business done in all Cotton shares and the market keeps steady at the following quotations:—Shanghai Cottons at \$11, 135, Ewe at \$11, Kang Yike at \$11, Yangtze at \$11, 880 and Orientals at \$11, all buyers.

Miscellaneous.—Green Island Cements have again been placed at \$7.80 and \$7.70. Hongkong Ice are now quoted nominal at \$22½. Dairy Farms have buyers at \$22 after sales during the week at \$20. Ropes have been placed at \$27½. Wapona after Shanghai is 79.

FORGED BANKNOTE.

A Chinese Charged with Uttering.

At the Criminal Sessions this afternoon, before Sir William Rees Davies, a Chinese named Cheung Chung, was charged with uttering a forged bank note, and also with being in possession of a forged note.

The case for the Crown was conducted by the Hon. Attorney General and prisoner was unrepresented.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty. The following were empanelled on the jury:—Messrs. N. S. Brown, A. G. Hewitt, W. L. Weaver, M. A. Raskak, J. M. Wong, P. V. H. Botelho and T. Arnott.

The Attorney General stated the note in question was a \$5 note of the Chartered Bank which had been altered so as to make it appear a \$100 note. On February 15, the prisoner went to a stall in the Central Market and asked for change on the note, which he was given. After he had left, it was discovered that the note was a forged one. The people at the stall knew the man and he was subsequently arrested. There was no dispute as to the fact that the man passed the note, but the defence was that the prisoner did not know that it was false. There were three points which went to show that the man had guilty knowledge, the first being that he went to a stall instead of to a money changer's. The second point was that although he was a shop coolie he had \$100 in his possession and when arrested had \$140 in good money. That was rather a lot for a shop coolie to have. The third fact was that two days previously he had given a man a similar bad note which was passed during some gambling at a shop in Hollywood Road. He admitted giving the man the note to gamble with, but said he did not know it was false.

Evidence was then given.

Glorified Chibblains.

"Trench feet," the trouble that formerly afflicted the soldiers sorely, is really glorified chibblains. This on the authority of Brigadier General Johnson, speaking at a Red Cross meeting in Sydney. Through the efforts of that body, he declared the complaint had been stamped out of France. General Birdwood at first thought that the affection was due to the men's carelessness, and ordered that every man affected with it should be court-martialled. When the General was attacked himself, however, he altered his views. It was "one on him," the men said.

Murdered a German Baroness.

Advices from Nagasaki say that Tanaka Tokuchi, who was sentenced to death on a charge of killing Ima Zedern, the wife of Lieutenant Baron Von Zardern, a German prisoner at Fukuoka, has been executed at Katabuchi Branch prison, Nagasaki. It will be remembered that at the time when this sensational murder occurred the victim's husband committed suicide. The murderer was sentenced to death in the Fukuoka Ohio Saibansho on May 28th last year. He appealed to the Nagasaki Appeal Court but the sentence was confirmed on Oct. 26th.

Forward Settlement Days.—21st March (Wednesday), 28th April (Friday), 29th May (Wednesday), 27th June (Thursday) and 29th July (Monday).

Exchange.—The opening T. T. rate on London to-day is 2½ and on Singapore 133½. Bar silver (ready) is quoted at 44½. The week at \$80. Ropes have been placed at \$27½. Wapona after Shanghai is 79.

RENTS IN BOMBAY.

A New Bill's Provisions.

Bombay, 21st February.—The Bombay Government Gazette contains the text of the Bill to restrict the increase in the rent of dwelling-houses, and business premises in the Presidency of Bombay. The proposed Act will come into operation in the first instance only in the City of Bombay, in the Taluka of Salsette and in the Municipal District of Karachi, but power is reserved to extend its operation to any local area. The Act shall be in force during the continuance of the present war, and for a period of not less than six months, and not exceeding two years afterwards.

Among the objects and reasons, it is stated that the justification for this kind of legislation is that it conduces to the interest of the community as a whole to regulate to some extent the power which the purely abnormal conditions of war have placed in the hands of persons occupying certain positions in the economic organisation to take advantage of others less favourably situated. The exigencies of war have caused an influx of population, both military and civil, into certain localities, and the supply of accommodation for various reasons has not kept pace with the demand. It is inequitable that the enhanced value thereby given to the existing properties should be wholly appropriated by one party, the landlord, to the detriment of the tenant, whose services in any particular locality are in most cases equally essential to the State. The absence hitherto of restrictions on the raising of rent in Bombay and certain other places in the Presidency, has already produced conditions rendering the present measure essentially necessary and urgent. The provisions of the English Act respecting mortgage interest have not been reproduced in the Bill, as the necessity for them does not exist in the Bombay Presidency as in England. English legislation has proceeded on the assumption that the proper rent of a house is the rent paid on the 3rd August, 1914.

The present Bill adopts a principle similar to that of the English Act, with this modification that a somewhat later date than the outbreak of war has been fixed for the computation of the standard rent. An increase of 10 per cent. is allowed. This provision will secure to landlords a reasonable portion of the enhancement of the values caused by the war, while safeguarding tenants from undue exactions. The English Act does not apply to business premises, and applies only to dwelling-houses below a rental value of £28, and in London of £35. This Bill extends to all dwelling-houses and business premises in Bombay City and two other localities, because similar conditions exist there in the case of all classes of properties. If the Bill is applied to other areas, power has been reserved to limit its action to dwelling-houses only, or to certain classes of dwelling-houses of business or premises. The Bill gives the power of determining questions arising under its provisions to a Civil Court, as does the English Act. Questions under this law will ordinarily arise in the course of civil proceedings, otherwise instituted, namely when rent has been raised, not paid, and the landlord seeks for rent or applies for an order of ejectment, or a distress warrant. It will in such cases naturally devolve upon the Civil Court to decide whether the rent demanded is allowable under the provisions of this Bill. In cases under clause 14, where application may be made for the apportionment of rent, proceedings will not necessarily be pending, but the court has been similarly given power of making an order, again following the English precedent. The Bill gives jurisdiction to Small Causes Courts within their local limits in cases under the clause mentioned as above.

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

Evidence on Behalf of the Golf Club.

The enquiry into the sad catastrophe which occurred at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on February 28, was continued at the Police Court this morning, being conducted by Mr. J. E. Wood, acting as Coroner. The following jurymen were also present:—Messrs. A. H. Barlow (foreman), J. H. Wallace, and W. C. Jack.

Mr. M. K. Lo appeared on behalf of a number of Chinese who lost relatives in the disaster; Mr. F. B. L. Bowley represented the contractor, The Hok, who built the stands; Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the lessees of the Unity Stand. Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Crown Solicitor, was also present.

Mr. E. J. Grist said that in 1911 he was on the Committee of the Golf Club. He would like to make it quite clear that in that year the Committee approached the P.W.D. with a view to preserving the greens over which the sheds were built, and in consequence of that the P.W.D. made certain regulations. The Committee made a suggestion that a causeway should be made at the back of the sheds. He did not think that there was any suggestion regarding struts, but it was suggested that the uprights should not be let into the ground. There never had been holes dug for them, but the fact of their being dumped on the ground made nasty places.

By the Crown Solicitor:—The absence of the causeway would of course assist in the case of a panic. Previously the people simply walked across the green.

By Mr. Bowley:—The stands were on part of the greens, but they were never able to protect all the greens.

By Mr. Lo:—They left it to the P. W. D. to do what they thought best, and also to look after the interests of the public.

Mr. W. J. Wilkinson, of the Hongkong Land Investment Company, said he was in Shed No. 8 on the top floor at the time of the catastrophe. He was with his wife, children and other relatives. He first heard a creaking noise, which seemed to be in the shed where he was. Then the whole structure began to sway and he was suddenly collapsed. He was in the middle of the shed at the time. There were more than fifty people on that floor. There was no abnormal movement of any kind before the collapse, and neither did he notice a movement by people in other parts of the shed. He and all his relatives were buried in the debris. His first inclination was to stay there to avoid any more falling debris, but then he saw fire, apparently by the partition between Sheds Nos. 18 and 9. The fire was then quite small and seemed to be on the first floor as it was in its collapsed condition. He thought the fire started after the collapse.

He then forced a hole through the roof, and managed to get all his relatives out. They landed off the roof on the roadside. The fire was then quite close and burning strongly. (Witness pointed out on a photograph himself and family crawling out). His opinion was that the large number of people who were killed in that shed were pinned down. He did not think that the stairway at the rear of the shed collapsed by itself after the sheds had fallen, but that it was taken in the general fall. He was certain that his shed fell in the direction of the Golf Club. When he got out he saw fire in the direction of the Golf Club.

By Mr. Wakeman:—He afterwards saw fully 200 dead bodies in front of No. 8 shed. The fire only seemed to break out at one place.

In reply to Mr. Bowley, witness admitted that there were two chabatties in the shed for boiling water. He could not say what the chabatties were resting on. The first floor was fairly full—about 200 people. The people made a rush when the sheds crashed.

By Mr. Stevenson:—The Fire Brigade was working when he got back. There did not seem a sufficient supply of water, only a canvas tank being used. Most of the water was being put on the

Golf House, which it was impossible to save. That would be at about 3.30 o'clock.

Witness added that there might have been a general movement though the poles not being in the ground. In his opinion the poles should have been put in the ground at least three or four feet and then wedged to have prevented play. He had served his apprenticeship in the building trade. He had not inspected the sheds at all, and did not study their construction. It appeared, from the photograph, the upright pole in Shed No. 9, was not carried to the basement it would make the shed very unsafe, and explain the cause of the collapse. He thought the collapse was due to the uprights and if one shed leaned it would take all the others with it.

Further questioned by Mr. Bowley witness said he had seen the poles of bamboo sheds put in the ground, but only on soft ground. He would admit that the ground was harder owing to no rain, but all turf ground was what he called soft ground. This collapse was due to the supports getting out of plumb, owing to the continual movement. If they had been put in the ground they could not have moved. He admitted that leaning at the foot of the poles would make them a little secure. He thought that one party wall for two sheds was not stable. Each shed should have had a separate party wall. As it was the sheds were only divided by one party wall. He thought that it was a risky method to have the floors of the stands at different heights. It was quite safe to build three storey sheds if they were properly constructed.

A Chinese, who was in Shed No. 11 at the time of the collapse, also told his story of what happened and how he was pinned down and afterwards scrambled out. When he went into the sheds at 2.30 he noticed that one of the lashings was moving up and down.

That was shed No. 10. It was making a noise by rubbing against the pole. He was not afraid, but he thought that that would make the floor a little unsafe. The shed was full when the collapse occurred.

Chin Chai, a Chinese "boy," stated that he was standing in the middle of Shed 13, when he heard a creaking sound from the floor upon which he was standing. The floor was crowded. Before the collapse came, there was no panic, but there was a stampede when the creaking sound was heard. There was no fire in No. 13, but when he got out he saw a fire in No. 11.

Wong Sin-ting, No. 2 "boy" in the Golf Club, said he was in the Club house at the time of the collapse. He ran into the Club. He was afraid to see what was happening because people were making such a noise, and after shutting the window he told a European in the Club, who replied that he had better get plenty of water ready. Witness helped to move things out of the Golf Club.

By Mr. Bowley:—Water was got from the kitchen. There were no fire buckets. It was hard to say if sufficient water had been to hand whether the fire could have been put out.

Warder Gast said that the time of the collapse he was standing in the grand-stand enclosure. He first heard a creaking noise and looking round saw a booth, second or third from the Golf Club end, collapsing. A few seconds later the whole lot collapsed. He rushed on the track and entered about the middle of the booths. A few minutes after the cry of fire was given.

J. Mohammed Dyer, clerk at the Magistracy, said that at the time of the collapse he was in Sheds 4, 5 and 6. When the collapse came he assisted in rescuing the people pinned in the debris. He first saw smoke coming from Sheds 7 and 8.

The enquiry was adjourned until to-morrow.

Bank Extension.

We learn from the Osaka Asahi that the Yokohama Specie Bank has determined to open branch offices in Batavia, Argentina, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro shortly. The necessary preparations are now being made.

TRENCHARD.

The Chieftain of British Air Staff.

Major-General Sir Hugh Trenchard, first chief of Britain's first Air Staff, was forty-five years old in February. He is a Dorsetshire man, whose family has lived in the "Thomas Hardy country" for many generations. Trenchard hoped to enter the Navy, but failed in spelling, although he is a brilliant mathematician. He joined the Army through the Militia. Physically the Air Chief's outstanding characteristics are 6ft. 1in. of height, broad shoulders, a head which is smallish in proportion, a wealth of jet-black hair, grey eyes that look straight at you out of a face which is rounded off with firmly set jaws, and a manner that combines energy and enthusiasm without savouring of "hustle."

"Undoubtedly the most remarkable man the war has produced," is the description applied to General Trenchard by all who know him. It would be going too far to say that he is the creator of the British air arm as it exists to-day. But it is literally true that Trenchard is the man who has endowed the service with the spirit of the offensive.

He was the first soldier in any army now in the field to recognise the offensive power of the aeroplane and develop it to its present formidable state. Until the battle of the Somme neither the British, French, nor German Staff had attempted to utilise the flying machine as a weapon of attack on any noteworthy scale. The complete mastery of the air which Haig's forces enjoyed throughout the Somme fighting was exclusively Trenchard's achievement. There is documentary evidence that the Germans learned more from the British air tactics on the Somme than they ever knew before, and subsequently adopted them en bloc.

One of the first soldiers in the British Army to take up flying, the outbreak of war in 1914 found Trenchard in command of the Central Flying School at Aldershot. The British air "service" in those early days consisted of four squadrons of machines. All of them went forth with the "Contemptibles," leaving Trenchard disarmed. He was in that condition when he was ordered to send machines to Egypt and to defend the east coast in addition! Trenchard's "organisation" now consisted of an office without even a typist, but he made ready to obey orders. In three weeks he had done what was required.

Some day, perhaps, the story will be told of how Trenchard, whose outstanding traits are long-range vision and lightning-like power of decision, wanted then and there, before the war was more than a month old, to take over a great British motor works for the exclusive use of the Air Service. He was balked in that desire, else the story of the air war, glorious as it has been, might have been vastly different.

At the end of 1914 Trenchard went to France as a wing commander, and, while actively directing its operations at the front, proceeded to evolve the fighting organisation which was to reach its zenith on the Somme, and of which eventually he became the Chief.

Trenchard is one of the strong but not "silent" men. His hobby is getting things done. Having set out to accomplish a task, he never rests until he does it. His military ideal is that it is an army's business to fight. We may rest assured that this South African veteran and Empire-builder (for there are five years of effective administrative achievement to Trenchard's credit in West Africa and Nigeria) will not rest content till he has destroyed the enemy's air force.

I am letting no Air Staff secret out of the bag when I say that it is Trenchard's "War Aim." "One who knows him," in the Daily Mail.

Begging Nuisance.

Before Mr. Dyer, at the Magistracy this morning, two beggars, arrested in Cause Road yesterday, were fined \$5 or 14 days' hard labour. Both had been sent away from the Colony before.

RUMANIA AND THE DOBRUDJA.

Its Retention a Vital Matter.

M. Take Jonescu made to the Paris correspondent of the Morning Post the following statement:—"The Bulgarians and some of the Austro-Germans speak of the Rumanian Dobruja as if the Rumanians in that province constituted merely a dominant minority of the population. Setting aside for the moment the fact that the Allies have guaranteed to us the integrity of Rumanian territory, it must be remembered that the Dobruja was given to us by the Powers in exchange for Bessarabia, which had been taken from us without our consent. It is evident that from the moment when we were cut off from access to the sea on the left bank of the Danube we must necessarily have the right bank."

"For us the Dobruja is a vital question, for without it we shall be the slaves of Austria and Bulgaria, that is to say, of Germany. When we entered the Dobruja in 1877 the Bulgarians formed part of the minority, and were about the same in number as the Rumanians. The Turks and Tartars, who up to then formed the majority of the population, emigrated in large numbers, and were replaced by Rumanians. In Old Dobruja, the Rumanian element has now become not only a relative but an absolute majority, the rest of the people being composed of Turks, Tartars, Bulgarians, Greeks, Germans, etc. In that portion of the Dobruja which was taken by us in 1913 the majority of the population was Turk and Tartar. To speak of the Dobruja as a Bulgarian country is an absolute absurdity. If the Bulgarians had massacred or put to flight the whole population of the Dobruja the fact would not be altered. If the Germans had exterminated the whole people of Belgium that would not have transformed Belgium into a German country."

WATER RETURN.

Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on March 1, 1918.

CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS LEVEL.			
System	1917	1918	1919
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5

STORAGE IN MILLIONS AND DECIMALS OF GALLONS.

System	1917	1918	1919
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5

STORAGE IN MILLIONS AND DECIMALS OF GALLONS.

System	1917	1918	1919
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5

KOWLOON WATER WORKS LEVEL.

System	1917	1918	1919
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5

STORAGE IN MILLIONS AND DECIMALS OF GALLONS.

System	1917	1918	1919
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5
City	57.5	57.5	57.5
Hill	57.5	57.5	57.5

W. CHEATHAM.

Public Works Department.

Profiteering.

Arrangements are reported in Yokohama whereby garden and farm produce will be taken to the markets, and put on sale, over the producer's price and 25 per cent. below present prices. This estimate indicates the amount of profiteering which is going on. One "wonder" of the war is the similar measure in Shanghai, which has been sent away from the Colony before.



The village of Castlewood stood and stands with the Church in the midst. The parsonage hard by it, the inn with the sign of the Three Castles on the elm. The London road stretched away towards the rising sun, and to the west, where swelling hills and peaks, behind which many a line Henry Esmond saw the same sun setting that he now looks on thousands of miles away across the great ocean.

Henry Esmond, Book I. Chap. 3

The sign of the "Three Castles" will now be found on every Tin and on every Packet of:

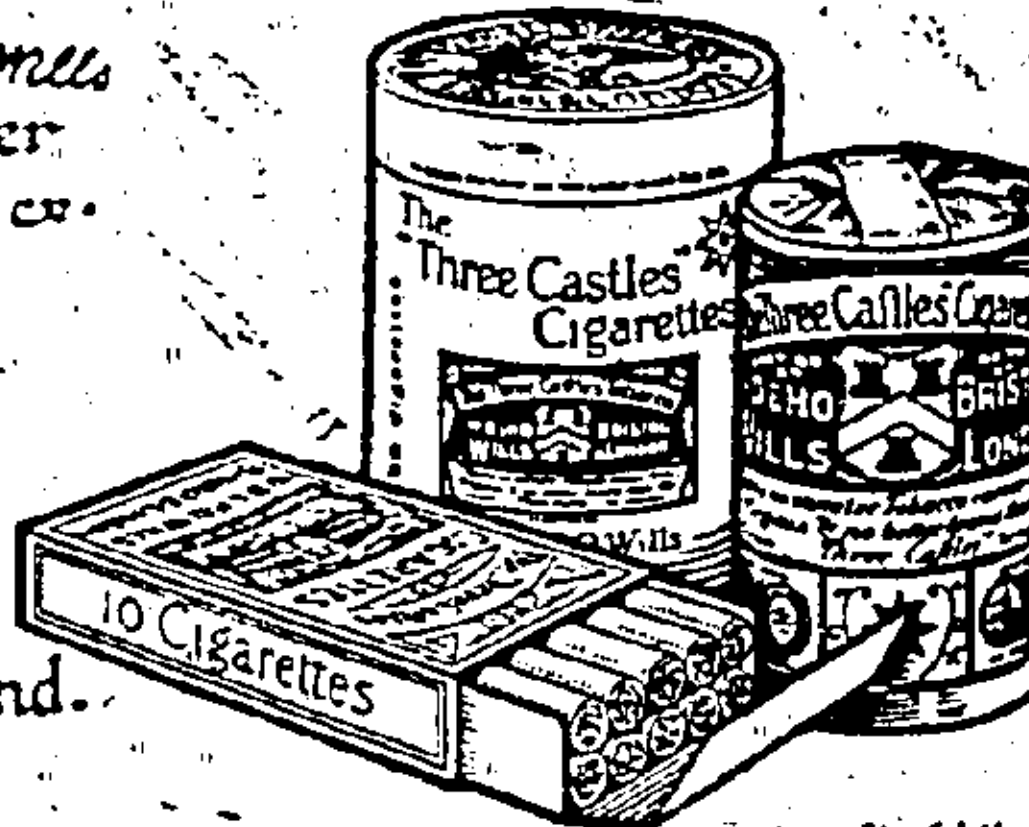
The "THREE CASTLES" Virginia Cigarettes

This together with the signature W.D. & H.O. WILLS stood and stands for the genuine character of this famous and historical Brand.

There is no sweeter Tobacco comes from Virginia and no better Brand than the "THREE CASTLES"

W.D. & H.O. WILLS, Bristol & London, England.

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPSTAN NAVY CUT"



WEATHER REPORT.

March 22, 12h. 10m.—No return from Japan and Vladivostok. Pressure has decreased slightly over the Philippines, and increased slightly elsewhere. The anticyclone has increased in intensity, but apparently continues to move north-eastward; the depression remains over Indo-China. Fresh monsoon will prevail along the China Coast to the south of Foochow, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. 30-day, 0.01 inch. Total since January 1st 0.41 inch against an average of 5.06 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District	Forecast
1. Hongkong to Gap Rock.	E. winds, fresh; cloudy, some rain.
2. Formosa Channel.	N.E. winds, fresh.
3. South coast of China between H.K. and Lamook.	as No. 1.
4. South coast of China between H.K. and Hainan.	as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register. March 22, a.m.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer.	Temperature.	Humidity.	Winds. Dir'n. Force.	Weather.
Yokohama	6a					
Manila	5a					
Marikata	"					
Tokio	"					
Kochi	"					
Nagasaki	"					
Kyushu	"					
Oshima	"					
Naha	"					
Ishijima	"					
Bonin Is.	"					
Shanghai	6a	30.19	38	72	sw	2
Hankow	"					
Yokohama	"					
Kiungang	"					
Changsha	"					
Shanghai	"	30.18	39	100	ne	1
Guangzhou	"	30.15	42	92	nne	2
Shanghai	"	30.08	54	87	n	2
Amoy	"	30.04	56	81	ene	1
Swatow	"	30.07	58	58	e	1
Taihou	5a	30.14	57	89	e	4
Taihou	"	29.98	57	n	2	0
Taihou	"	29.95	57	n	4	0
Taihou	"	29.93	68	n	4	b

O. W. JEFFRIES, Chief Assistant.

Hongkong Observatory, Mar. 22, 1918.

1. Barometer, reduced to 32 degrees Fahrenheit on the level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths.
2. Temperature, in the shade, in degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Humidity, in percentage of saturation the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.
4. Direction of Wind, to two points.
5. Force of Wind, according to Beaufort Scale.
State of Weather, b blue sky, c detached cloud, d drizzling rain, f fog, g gloomy, h hail, i lightning, o overcast, p passing showers, s equally, r rain, s snow, t thunder, v visibility, w dew wet.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Previous	Day	On date	On date
	at 6 p.m.	at 6 a.m.	at 6 p.m.
Barometer	29.91	29.93	29.93
Temperature	64	64	62
Humidity	88	95	94
Wind Direction	E.	E.	E.
Force	4	4	5
Weather	od	o	od
Rain	0.02	0.00	0.01
Highest open air Temperature on the day			
Lowest			

H.K. Observatory, Mar. 22, 1918.

T. F. CLAXTON, Director.

TIDE TABLE.

From 18th Mar. to 24th Mar.

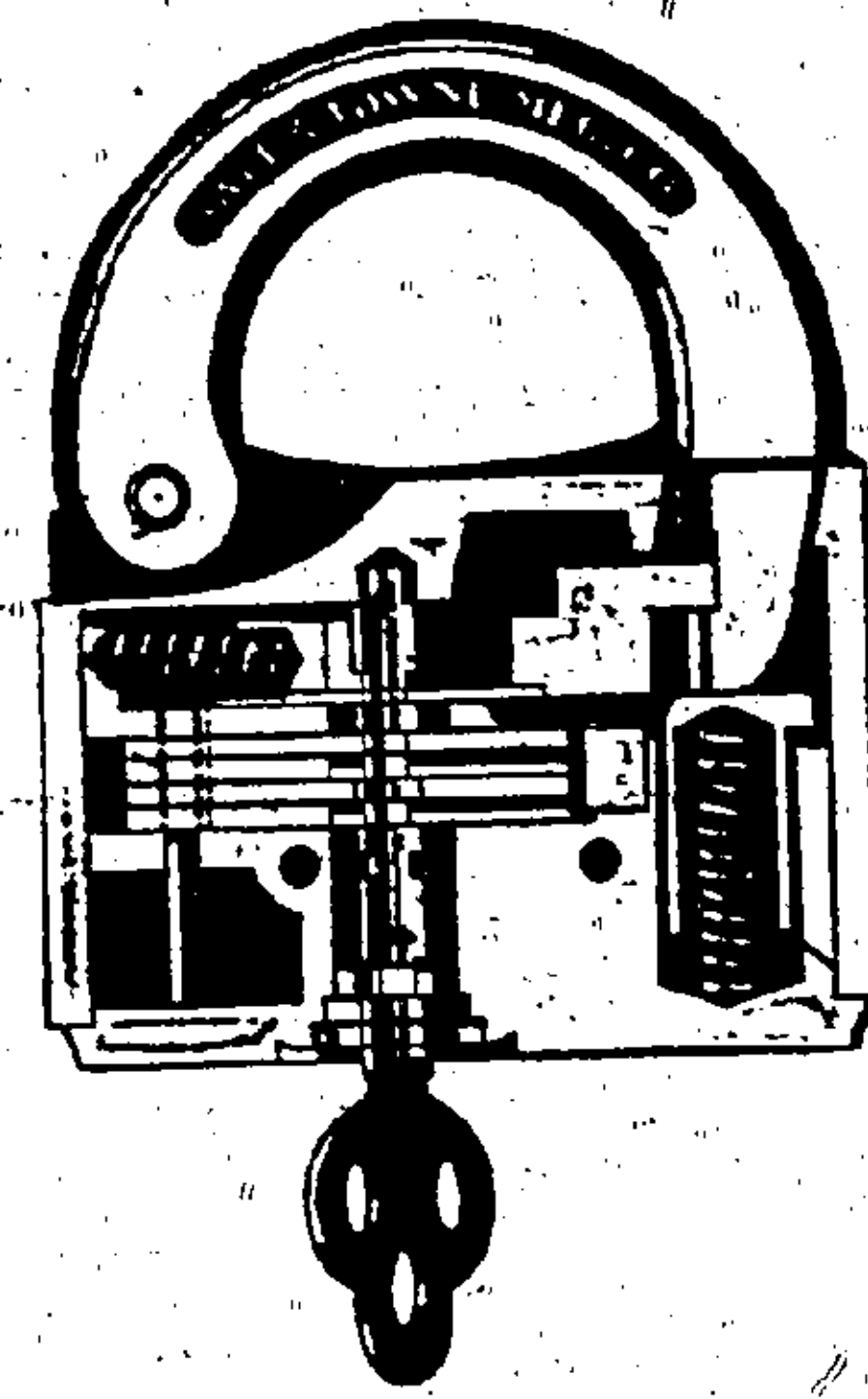
Day	Month	High Water	Low Water	Mean Time
Mon.	18	11.15	5.15	11.15
Tues.	19	11.15	5.15	11.15
Wed.	20	11.15	5.15	11.15
Thurs.	21	11.15	5.15	11.15
Fri.	22	11.15	5.15	11.15
Sat.	23	11.15	5.15	11.15
Sun.	24	11.15	5.15	11.15

22 morning, 23 afternoon.

NOTICES.

Padlocks That Guard

The mechanism of every Yale and Towne padlock is made as near thief-proof as human ingenuity can devise. Every lock offers the utmost in protection according to its size.

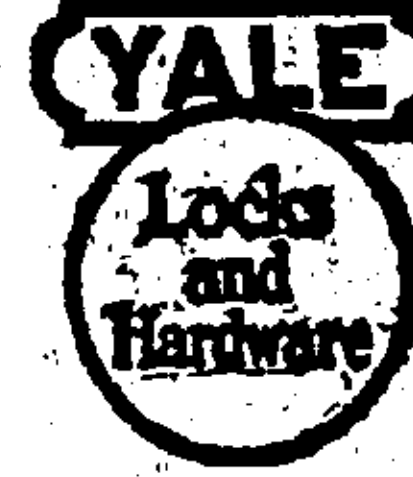


From the tiny goldplated jewel box padlock to the massive brass "pin tumbler" types, the entire line of Yale padlocks affords strength and security in the numberless places where only a padlock is practical.

Look for the **YALE** trade mark



MUSTARD & CO.
SOLE AGENTS



GEO. P. LAMMERT.

AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER
AND SURVEYOR.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on:

WEDNESDAY, the 3rd April, 1918,

commencing at 12 o'clock (NOON) at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street,

The s.s. "American" as she now lies moored off Cheung Sha Wan

Particulars:—

Gross tonnage 795 net 513

Iron screw steamer length 194' 7" breadth 27' 3" depth 17' 6"

Engines:—Compound 2 cylinders 27" and 50" by 36" stroke

Note: The above vessel was abandoned to underwriters and is being sold without flag or register as she now lies off Cheung Sha Wan (Hongkong Harbour).

Terms: 20% purchase money on fall of hammer when ship will be at purchaser's risk and completion within one week of date of sale.

GEO. P. LAMMERT, Auctioneer.

NOTICE.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY LIMITED.

THE THIRTY SEVENTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held at the Offices of the General Manager at NOON on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1917, and the report of the General Managers.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to 27th instant both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO. LTD., General Managers, Hongkong, 7th March, 1918.

ENTERTAINMENT.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

MARCH 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th 1918.

"THE FATAL RING."

(Episode 3) "BORROWED IDENTITY."

(Episode 4) "THE WARNING OF THE RING."

American Gazette No. 41

"SPIRIT, WHERE ARE THOU?"

"THOSE KIDS AND CUPID"

&c., &c.

Booking at **ANDERSON'S.**

NOTICE.

THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LTD.

THE TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, St. George's Buildings, Chater Road, Victoria, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 23rd day of March, 1918, at 11.0 o'clock in the forenoon for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1917, and declaring a Dividend.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from THURSDAY, the 14th March, 1918, until SATURDAY, the 23rd March, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Hongkong, 5th March, 1918.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, by George William Cade Barnett at 11, Lee House Street, in the City of Victoria, Hong Kong.

NOTICE.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE FORTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant at 11.30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to 27th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO. LTD., General Agents, Hongkong, 5th March, 1918.

POST OFFICE.

The Parcel Post service to places in Szechwan Province is suspended until further notice.

In future mail for Kongsong will be closed at the General Post Office and at Sheung Wan P. O. at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, on other days as at present.

The Russian Post Office refuses to accept further mails for transmission to Europe by the Trans-Siberian railway.

The London Post Office advises that all parcels (except those for Prisoners of War) and all sample packets for Denmark, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland will be stopped by the Military Censors unless posted under a War Office permit.

The importation into the Commonwealth of Australia of tea, other than that grown or produced in British Possessions, is prohibited, unless the consent in writing of the Commonwealth Minister for Trade and Customs has been first obtained.

The Parcel Post Services to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Eritrea, French Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Unclaimed parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yunnan and Mengtze and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—

Parcel not over 5 lbs. . . . 20 cents.
Do. 7 lbs. . . . 41.25
Do. 11 lbs. . . . 2.70

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

NOTICES.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTER of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, 26th March, 1918, to WEDNESDAY, 24th April, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

W. E. ROBERTS, Secretary.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1918.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held at the Offices of the undersigned at 11 A.M. on WEDNESDAY the 27th instant.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to the 27th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1918.

HONGKONG DOG AND CAT SHOW 1918.

THE committee beg to notify intending exhibitors that the Show will be held sometime during March, on a date to be notified later.

It has been decided to include Poultry provided that sufficient entries are forthcoming.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Undersigned.

G. W. GEGG, Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.

c/o Messrs. HUGHES & HOUGH.

NOTICES.

WAI KEE.

FLAG & SAILMAKER

No. 129, Des Voeux Road Central Top Floor, HONGKONG.

Telephone No. 1833

ASAHI BEER.



SOLE AGENTS Mitsui Bussan Kaisha